

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061340
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI IMMEDIATE

USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 061340

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 061340

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SO, US, ET, PBOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT
ON SOMALIA ON MARCH 9

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN MARCH 9 DEALING WITH THE SOMALI/
ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT AND PRESIDENT SIAD'S AGREEMENT TO
WITHDRAW HIS FORCES FROM THE OGADEN:

BEGIN TEXT: I HAVE ANOTHER STATEMENT TO MAKE. LAST
NIGHT, I WAS INFORMED BY PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE OF SOMALIA
THAT HE WAS AGREEING TO WITHDRAW HIS FORCES FROM THE
OGADEN AREA, THE OCCUPIED AREAS OF ETHIOPIA, AND JUST
THE LAST FEW MINUTES, HE CONFIRMED THIS COMMITMENT TO ME
WITH A PUBLIC STATEMENT.

I WELCOME PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS
DECISION. THE UNITED STATES HOPES THAT THIS DECISION
WILL RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE HALT OF THE BLOODSHED IN THAT
AREA OF THE HORN OF AFRICA. WE HOPE THAT THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY CAN MOVE QUICKLY TO ASSIST ALL PARTIES
TO TERMINATE HOSTILITIES, TO AGREE QUICKLY ON RULES
THAT CAN BE OBSERVED SO THAT SOMALIAN FORCES CAN RETIRE

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PAGE 03 STATE 061340

RAPIDLY INTO THEIR OWN TERRITORY AND TO ENSURE THAT
PEACEFUL CONDITIONS ARE RESTORED AMONG THE CIVILIAN
POPULATION.

AS SOON AS SOMALIA FORCES HAVE WITHDRAWN COMPLETELY,
AND AS SOON AS ETHIOPIAN FORCES HAVE REESTABLISHED
CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN TERRITORY, WITHDRAWAL OF THE
SOVIET AND CUBAN COMBAT PRESENCE SHOULD BEGIN.

THE UNITED STATES LOOKS FORWARD TO THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL
OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES, ETHIOPIA
AND SOMALIA, AT AN EARLY DATE. WE STAND READY TO ASSIST
THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN WORKING OUT THE
BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA
WHICH WOULD ENSURE THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL
COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND THE HONORING OF INTERNATIONAL
BOUNDARIES.

QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, DOES THAT SOMALIA ANNOUNCEMENT
CAUSE YOU TO LOOK ANY MORE FAVORABLY ON SOMALI REQUESTS
FOR AMERICAN ARMS, ASSUMING THEY GO THROUGH WITH IT?

THE PRESIDENT: WE NOTIFIED SOMALIA MANY MONTHS AGO THAT AS LONG AS THEY WERE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CONSIDERATION ON OUR PART FOR DEFENSIVE ARMS OF ANY KIND. I THINK IT WOULD REQUIRE A TANGIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF THE CARRYING OUT OF THIS COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE SOMALIANS AND ALSO A RENEWED COMMITMENT NOT TO DISHONOR THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF EITHER ETHIOPIA OR KENYA BEFORE WE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH THEM ECONOMIC AID OR DEFENSIVE ARMS SUPPLIES.

IN THIS CASE, WORKING WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE CONGRESS, WE WOULD CONSIDER THIS IN A ROUTINE MANNER, BUT NOT UNTIL. END TEXT.

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PAGE 04 STATE 061340

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